

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/EP 03/06302

| <b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b><br>IPC 7 C23C2/00  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC   |   |  |
| <b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b><br>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br>IPC 7 C23C  |   |  |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched   |   |  |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)<br>EPO-Internal, WPI Data  |   |  |
| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>   |   |  |
| Category *  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No.  |
| A   | EP 1 197 572 A (KAWASAKI STEEL CO)<br>17 April 2002 (2002-04-17)<br>paragraphs '0006!-'0008!; figures 1-3<br>paragraph '0015! | 1-8  |
| A   | EP 0 794 339 A (SKF GMBH ;THYSSEN STAHL AG (DE)) 10 September 1997 (1997-09-10)<br>abstract; figure 1                         | 1-8  |
| A   | DE 101 04 032 A (SKF SVERIGE AB GOETEBORG)<br>9 August 2001 (2001-08-09)<br>abstract; figure 2                                | 1-8  |
| A   | DE 199 21 191 A (NEUMANN WALTER)<br>9 November 2000 (2000-11-09)<br>claims 1,8,9; figures 3-7                                 | 1-8  |
|   | -/-   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. |
| * Special categories of cited documents :   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>*P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>  |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>*&amp;* document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> |   |  |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search   | Date of mailing of the international search report  |  |
| 5 December 2003   | 16/12/2003  |  |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA<br>European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk<br>Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016  | Authorized officer<br>Rolle, S  |  |

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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| A          | EP 1 096 034 A (ALPHATECH INC)<br>2 May 2001 (2001-05-02)<br>abstract; figure 3<br>_____                                    | 1-8                   |

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Information on patent family members

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